

**Work Plan for HELCOM Response Working Group 2019-2020**  
(approved by HOD 55-2018)

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>RESULTS/ TIME FRAME</b>
Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national response in case of incidents		
Keep HELCOM Response Manual up to date including current Volume 1 (oil) as well as the new Volume III (response on the shore)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat Intersessional work	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Improve the usability and ease of updating of HELCOM Response Manuals by exploring new electronic means of publishing including i.e. smartphone apps.	Secretariat	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Consider complete revision of the HELCOM Response Manual (all Volumes)	Contracting Parties, Expert working groups, Secretariat	Follow up at RESPONSE 26- 2019
Carry out a major revision of Volume 2 (chemicals) via a joint European project.	Secretariat, CG HNS MANUAL	Follow up at HELCOM RESPONSE 26-2019
Development of HELCOM Response Exercise Plan	Contracting Parties (Sweden as lead country) EET	BALEX DELTA 2019  Draft to be considered at RESPONSE 26-2019
Carry out operational and other kinds of exercises in order to train the topics included in the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties  BALEX DELTA 2019: Lead Country Denmark  EETs to inform about the applicability of the evaluation framework developed for shore exercises  Estonia to inform about BALEX DELTA 2020  Other HELCOM and sub-regional exercises  On shore response exercises and OWR exercises, which can be combined with other exercises, as appropriate.	Annual activities EET of BALEX DELTA 2019 RESPONSE 26-2019
Build and follow up new knowledge on dispersants' use and applicability in the Baltic Sea	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Implement a three-tier approach to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area, with a special focus on the second tier (sub-regional level)		
Develop tools and methodology for regular regional assessments of maritime risks	Contracting Parties RESPONSE MARITIME (SAFE NAV)	Continuously Further discussion at RESPONSE 262019

Utilize the results of the OpenRisk Project and possible use of AISyRISK tool.		
Conclude/implement sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate by conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes to ensure swift and adequate response capacity to shoreline pollution and to develop best practices	Contracting Parties RESPONSE Intersessional work	Continuously
Implement and update if needed Response Manual Volume III (response on the shore)  Ensure that response on the shore is integrated with overall contingency planning  Make proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts  Provide annual cross-border or international exercises  Follow up the outcome of relevant projects  Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties  RESPONSE  Intersessional work  SHORE Network	Continuously  Working program of SHORE Network
Carry out Baltic wide mapping of prioritised coastal areas (sensitivity mapping).	Contracting Parties SHORE network	Further discussion at SHORE NETWORK 3-2019 and RESPONSE 26-2019
Integrate oiled wildlife response (OWR) into existing contingency plans  Exchange of information on development of national OWR plans, authority-NGO cooperation, national trainings and exercises  Develop OWR protocols and facilities  Develop OWR preparedness and response  Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties, Sea Alarm, WWF Finland and other stakeholders.  Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) 2013-2020	Baltic Oiled Wildlife network meeting 2019-2020  Reports to RESPONSE
Review the RESPONSE related HELCOM recommendations	Contracting Parties  RESPONSE Response Sub-Groups  In consultation with MARITIME  Intersessional work	Intersessional discussion  Further discussion at RESPONSE 26-2019

Plan activities related to the update of the BSAP	Contracting Parties	Further discussion at RESPONSE 26-2019
Enhance co-operation with regard to places of refuge according to HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5		
Make the Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge operational and implemented within/through sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Ratify the relevant compensation and liability conventions according to HELCOM Rec 31E/5	Contracting Parties Secretariat to provide update of the ratification status of relevant conventions at each RESPONSE meeting	Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Detection, investigation and prosecution of anti-pollution regulations		
Co-ordinate aerial surveillance flights and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance	IWGAS (Lead Country 2019-2020: Estonia) In co-operation with EMSA (CleanSeaNet)	Meetings of IWGAS and RESPONSE
Identify operational needs for satellite surveillance in each sub-region of the Baltic	IWGAS	Continuously
Carry out CEPCO and other flights:	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties	Annual activities
Harmonize aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area	IWGAS	Continuously
Maintain Seatrack Web/AIS/SAT for improved identification of possible polluters	STW/AIS/SAT partnership	Continuously
Co-operate/assist and exchange experience in investigations	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate with the Network of the Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Continuously
Carry out information exchange about offshore activities to be able to respond to accidental spills from such installations		
Report on ongoing/planned offshore activities (exploration/exploitation)	Contracting Parties	When applicable
Collect information/exchange experience/promote development and use of new technology and best practices		
Collect and publish information on shipping accidents and response operations in the Baltic and their impact on marine environment	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties in cooperation with HELCOM MARITIME Data flows from EMSA's EMCIP to be established	Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Developing response related indicators and update the existing core indicator on spills	RESPONSE and IWGAS	Meetings of RESPONSE
Keep track of studies on effects of and response to oil spills on the sea-bed (sunken oil).	RESPONSE	Meetings of RESPONSE
National and sub-regional reports on response operations and lessons learned	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect, compile and publish regional summaries of response operations and	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE

lessons learned using the format agreed at RESPONSE 21-2016		New chapter to be added to the Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Collect information on observed deliberate, illegal oil discharges, other substances and unknown substances and related statistics	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance  Indicator on oil spills
Update HELCOM map and data service with RESPONSE related information  Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM AIS, HELCOM POLREP, HELCOM GIS towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annually  Meetings of RESPONSE
Update of national equipment list in CECIS MP database	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Exchange information with other regional agreements	Chair/Secretariat	Meetings between regional agreements, EMSA and DG ECHO
Enhance use and development of technology to respond to accidents at night, in bad visibility, in bad weather, oil on ice, accidents involving heavy oil, chemical incidents	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Sharing information on common workspace regarding non-traditional oils	Contracting Parties	Continuously Meetings of RESPONSE
Participate in and share information of research on non-traditional fuel types	Contracting Parties	Continuously Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect and assess information on submerged hazardous objects including contaminated and potentially polluting wrecks and maintain work on dumped chemical munitions	HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (HELCOM SUBMERGED)	Meetings of RESPONSE  Thematic Assessment publication by 2020